



Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

Event Name	Potential Heavy Rainfall Event
Date	3/21/15
Time	0700
Operational Period	3/21/15
Report Number	2

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	1,2,3,6,
DDCs Active	

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:

The State Operations Center increased its activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) effective noon, Friday, March 20, 2015, due to a potential heavy rainfall event. The following agencies reported to the State Operations Center (SOC) to support any response requirements due to flash flooding: Texas Task Force 1 (TEEX), Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), Texas Military Forces (TMF), and American Red Cross (ARC).

A weak cold front tracked through the Panhandle and Red River areas before stalling. South of this front, low-level southerly winds continued to spread low-level moisture across the area. With abundant moisture in place, it has set the stage for a significant rain event across Texas starting late Friday and should continue into the weekend. As the upper level storm begins a slow eastward track, complexes of thunderstorms should form ahead of it. These thunderstorm complexes should tap into the deep moisture and produce locally heavy rainfall, mainly along the same areas impacted by recent rain events. Some areas could see storm totals over 3-4 inches, with locally higher amounts possible. **Flash Flood Watches** have been issued for Friday through Saturday across most of Southwest, South, Central, and Southeast Texas. As the upper level storm exits the area later Sunday, dry weather should return through the middle of next week.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 1

NWS Fort Worth: More heavy rainfall is expected across parts of North Texas through the first half of the weekend. A cold front is moving through the region now and will stall over the Hill Country tonight. Low level moisture will increase and numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are expected along the stalled frontal boundary. Most of the heavy rainfall will be confined to the southern portions of North Texas through Saturday night. A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect for areas of Killeen to Mexia to Palestine through Saturday night. A stalled frontal boundary across Central Texas will help generate numerous showers and a few thunderstorms later tonight through early Sunday. Rainfall amounts are expected to be highest in an area from Killeen to Mexia to Palestine. Rainfall amounts of 1-3 inches can be expected with locally heavier amounts. Lighter amounts will fall to the north.



NWS Shreveport: A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect for portions of Northeast Texas, Deep East Texas and northwest Louisiana from 4 PM Friday through 7 a.m. Sunday morning. An upper level trough currently across the Baja and Old Mexico will begin moving slowly to the north and east into the Texas Hill Country by Saturday Night. The strength of this upper trough is allowing for deep tropical moisture from the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico to infiltrate the region from the west and south. Rainfall will likely become excessive late along and south of the I-20 Corridor of Northeast Texas and northern Louisiana. This excessive heavy rainfall is

expected to continue throughout Saturday Night before moving east of the region during the day Sunday.

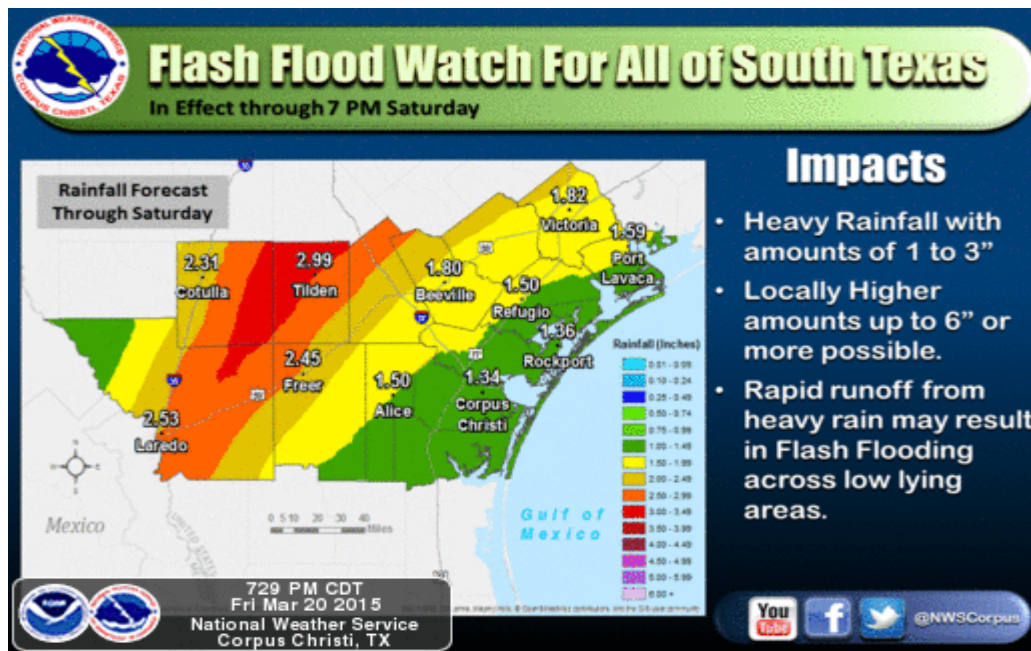


Region 3

NWS Brownsville: The combination between an upper level disturbance to our west and high moisture, we are expecting scattered showers and thunderstorms to develop, with the heaviest coverage being in the Upper Valley, Brush Country and northern Ranchlands. 1-3 inches of rain can be expected with locally heavier amounts possible. With recent heavy rain in this area, this may lead to arroyos to overfill their banks, flooding of roadways and low-lying areas.

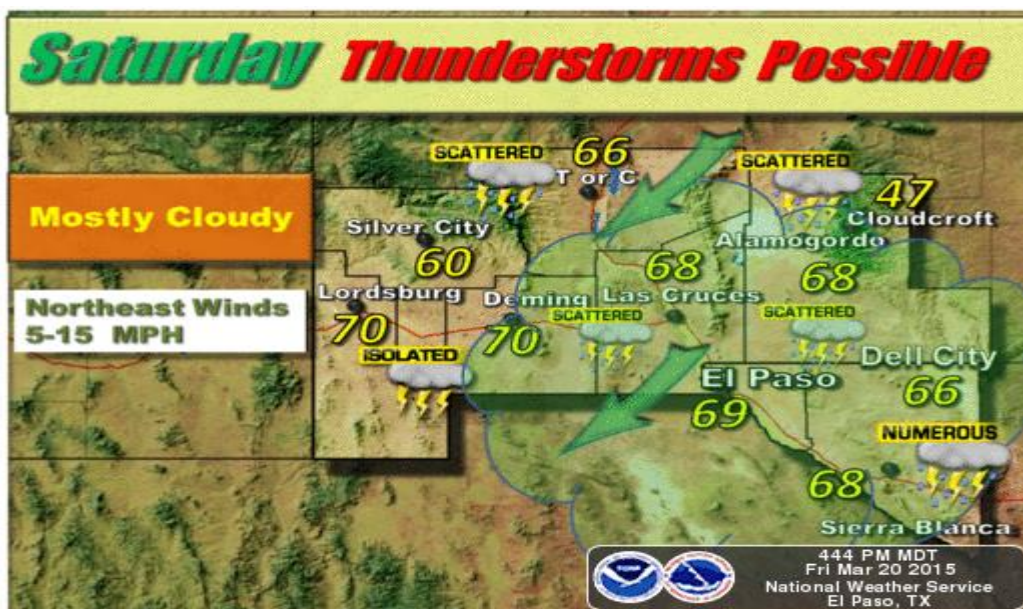


NWS Corpus Christi: An upper disturbance moving in from the west will increase rain chances from west to east, with an increase in showers and thunderstorms for the Brush Country. Coastal areas will likely see rain developing well late in the day into tonight. Morning fog along the coast is expected to lift by midmorning. Dense fog across the bays and nearshore waters is expected to last through tonight. Expect drier conditions Sunday through the middle of next week, with near seasonal temperatures especially during the day. Another front on Thursday could bring some rain with the boundary. The five-day outlook for Sunday through Thursday is depicted in the third graphic that follows.



Region 4

NWS El Paso: The upper level low pressure system that has been producing showers and thunderstorms in our area will continue to slowly drift on a path from northwest to southeast over northern Mexico. It is currently south of Arizona, which will place us in a favorable location for more active weather tonight. In fact, a weak disturbance will move up over our area in the southerly flow ahead of this feature early tonight. As a result, scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected for most areas for at least the first part of this evening.

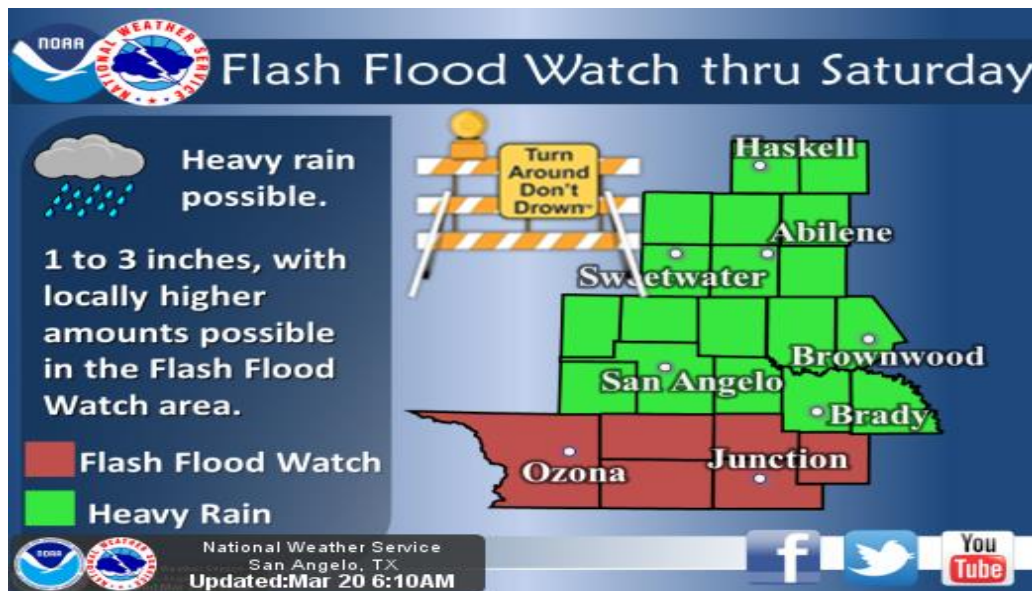


NWS Midland/Odessa: A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect through Saturday for the Davis and Apache Mountains, Marfa and Stockton Plateaus, Presidio Valley, Big Bend, and Terrell County. Thunderstorms are likely today and tonight, mainly along and south of I-10. Frequent lightning, very heavy rainfall, and small hail will accompany any storms that develop. Localized flash flooding will be possible with the stronger storms.



NWS San Angelo: A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect for the I-10 Corridor through Saturday. Widespread rainfall of 1-2 inches with locally higher totals of over 3 inches is possible in the watch area. Look for showers and thunderstorms to develop tonight. An isolated strong thunderstorm is possible, with the main threat being hail up to the size of a quarter. Lows

tonight will mainly be in the 50s. A period of wet weather remains on tap for our area, as an upper level weather system slowly approaches Texas from Mexico. Several rounds of showers and thunderstorms are expected. This precipitation will develop and increase in coverage tonight. The highest rain chance and coverage is expected south of a Sterling City to Brownwood line from today through late Saturday night. Widespread rainfall is expected the next few days across West Central Texas. Rainfall totals in excess of 1 inch are anticipated south of Sterling City to the Cross Plains line, with locally higher amounts possible, especially across the northwest Hill Country.



Region 6

NWS Austin/San Antonio: An upper level disturbance and a cold front interacting with a moist air mass will bring multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms by this afternoon. Heavy rains will create a likelihood of flash flooding this afternoon. High temperatures will range from the upper 60s in the Hill Country to the upper 70s across southern portions of the Rio Grande Plains. An upper level disturbance and a cold front interacting with an unseasonably moist air mass will generate multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms to produce a heavy rain event over South Central Texas today through Saturday night. Rainfall totals will average 2-4 inches with isolated totals greater than 6 inches possible. These rainfall amounts will cause flash flooding as well as rises on area creeks, streams, and rivers.



Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

DDC 13 – Bryan

Counties: Leon, Robertson, Madison, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Washington

DDC 13 is monitoring the impending flood/flash flooding event. The Texas Division of Emergency Management District Coordinator, DDC 13, has provided three updates to all jurisdictions within the DDC as well as American Red Cross, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

DDC 15 – Beaumont

Counties: Jefferson, Hardin, Orange

DDC15 and all local jurisdictions are at normal operations at this time. The DDC continues to monitor local weather and participate in weather conference calls.

Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19-21, and 24)

DDC 24 – Del Rio

Counties: Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala Counties

DDC 24 had reported power outages in La Pryor, Zavala County, at this time power has been restored.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 23, 12, 18, and 17)

DDC 11/23 – Waco

Counties: Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Mills, San Saba

The DDC is monitoring conditions and maintaining communications with local jurisdictions. A Flash Flood Watch is in effect for Bell, Falls, Freestone, Limestone, and Milam Counties, where 1-3 inches of rainfall, with locally higher amounts in excess of 4 inches are possible.

DDC 12 – Austin

Counties: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson

DDC 18 – AARC/Bexar County

Counties: Bexar, Karnes, Wilson

City of San Antonio Office of Emergency Management (SAOEM): SAOEM held an 11 a.m. webinar conference call on Friday with the National Weather Service and partner agencies. Monitoring Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and NWS. SAOEM staff will be on alert throughout this event. City of San Antonio Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) and Bexar County Public Works are preparing resources for standby. Beginning at noon on Friday, TCI began operations at Level 4 response, which includes four barricade trucks through 10 PM. After 10 PM, another four barricade trucks will be out through early morning. One tree crew and one debris removal crew on standby for Saturday.

DDC 18 – San Antonio

Counties:

Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall, Comal, Guadalupe, Bandera, Medina, Frio

The DDC continues to monitor and maintain communications with their local jurisdictions.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Task Force 1 (TEEX): Four swift water rescue boat squads have been activated.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): Highway Patrol Troopers are monitoring statewide and maintaining contact with partners. DPS Aviation has one helicopter with boat team commander available for situational awareness.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD): TPWD has alerted Statewide SAR team and have pre-staged two rescue boats and crews in Guadalupe and Bastrop Counties.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): TxDOT crews are monitoring low-water crossings and are prepared to address any debris on the highways. To see current road conditions, please review www.DriveTexas.org.

Texas Military Forces (TMF): Monitoring the situation.

American Red Cross (ARC): American Red Cross will have a representative at the SOC as long as required. In addition, ARC is taking the following proactive actions in advance of this event:

- Coordinating readiness actions with key local emergency managers

- Identifying sheltering availability – three shelters on standby in Comal County
- Placing volunteers on standby in targeted risk areas
- Placing all Texas ERVs on alert
- Placing SWARM Disaster Response Management Team C on Standby

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Resource Kind and Type	Quantity	Number of Personnel	Status	Resource Location
TTF1 - Boat squads	2		Activated	San Antonio
TTF1 - Boat squads	1	1	Activated	Austin
DPS Aviation - Air Assets w/swift water rescue capabilities	2	4	On standby	
TPWD - Rescue boats	2		On standby	Guadalupe and Bastrop Counties

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) held a weather situation conference call with the National Weather Service and state agency representatives at 8 PM March 20, 2015. A 10:00 a.m. conference call is scheduled for today. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed. The SOC is currently at Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions).

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.

W. Nim Kidd, CEM, TEM

Chief

Texas Division of Emergency Management

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